



PORT AND BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(J. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR

1956



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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	4
Vital Statistics — Births, Deaths and Infantile Mortality	5
Notifiable Infectious Diseases	10
Vaccination	12
Immunisation	12
Housing	13
Miscellaneous	14
Water Supply	18
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	19
Rodent Control	23-36
Inspection and Supervision of Food	24
Factories	28
Port Health	29

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

Health and Port Health Committee

Chairman: Alderman T. W. BLOMFIELD, M.Inst.M.

Alderman Mrs. A. M. FISHER

Alderman J. HARWOOD CATLEUGH, O.B.E., J.P.

Alderman C. A. FREESTONE, M.B.E.

Councillor E. A. ANDERSON(Mayor)

Councillor L. W. A. BARRETT, J.P.

Councillor E. M. BENEFER

Councillor W. BAKER

Councillor F. BULLEN, J.P.

Councillor H. B. FISHER

Councillor S. HODSON

Councillor W. J. PANTON, J.P.

Councillor C. POPKISS

Councillor H. STANFORTH

Councillor J. B. D. WALTON

Councillor W. R. WILDBUR

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

N. B. Jones, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Slaughterhouse Manager and Additional Sanitary Inspector:

N. H. OWEN, M.S.I.A.

PORT AND BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS
of the BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

Mr. Mayor, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for the year 1956.

The general health was good.

Influenza, generally mild in type, was common in the first quarter of the year.

Whooping Cough and Dysentery gave the majority of notifications of Infectious Diseases. The value of Vaccine in Whooping Cough prevention seemed evident.

Dysentery was epidemic, mostly among children in May and June.

A similar outbreak occurred at the same time of the year, in 1953.

It is topical to mention here, that those affected by the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations (made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955) that came into force during the year, are on the whole co-operating well in meeting the requirements of the Regulations.

The Highgate Clearance Order was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 4th May, 1956. No Slum Clearance proposals were submitted to the Council during the year owing to staff inadequacy.

The Slum Clearance Programme will affect the housing of applicants on the General Housing List, and the Council will no doubt deal with the situation in as sympathetic and practical a way as possible.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and help during the year.

I thank the Borough Engineer and the Housing Manager for their valuable contributions to this Report, and I particularly thank the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. N. B. Jones, for the willing way in which he took on extra work, and carried it out so satisfactorily.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HAMILTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid-Year Population (Registrar-General)
26,240

Births.

			Males	Females	Total
<i>Livebirths</i>					
Legitimate	...	...	268	196	464
Illegitimate	...	...	8	6	14
			—	—	—
			276	202	478
			—	—	—
<i>Stillbirths:</i>					
Legitimate	...	...	4	2	6
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			4	2	6
			—	—	—

Deaths.

All Ages	...	...	...	141	147	288
<i>Infants under 1 year of age:</i>						
Legitimate	...	...	4	4	8	
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—	
			4	4	8	
			—	—	—	
<i>Infants under 4 weeks of age:</i>						
Legitimate	...	...	3	3	6	
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—	
			3	3	6	
			—	—	—	
Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—	Nil	
Maternal Mortality	...	...	—	—	Nil	
Malignant Tumours	...	...	21	30	51	

Rates per 1,000 Population

Births	...	...	...	...	...	18.44
Births (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	15.7
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	12.4
Stillbirths (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	23.0
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	11.07
Deaths (England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 Livebirths)	...	...	...	...	...	16.74
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (England and Wales per 1,000 Livebirths)	...	...	...	...	...	23.8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (per 1,000 Livebirths) ...	12.55
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (England and Wales per 1,000 Livebirths)	16.9
Deaths from Tuberculosis	Nil
Deaths from Tuberculosis (England and Wales) ...	0.1
Deaths from Cancer of Lung and Bronchus ...	0.48
Deaths from Cancer of Lung and Bronchus (England and Wales)	0.407
Death from other forms of Cancer ...	1.11
Deaths from other forms of Cancer (England and Wales)	1.66
Maternal Mortality	Nil
Maternal Mortality (England and Wales) ...	0.56

Births exceeded Deaths by 190, and were 44 more than in 1955.

The numbers of Illegitimate Births and Stillbirths both declined compared with the previous year, from 27 to 14, and from 10 to 6 respectively. A progressive reduction of the Stillbirth Rate has been going on for some years (Stillbirths were 20 in each of the years 1948 and 1949), and this is no doubt a result of improved ante-natal attention, and all round bettering of social circumstances.

The Illegitimate birth percentage that had remained steadily round 6 per cent. for some years dropped to 3 per cent., a rate per 1,000 of 29 compared with the national figure of 46.

200 of the 288 deaths, 70 per cent. of them, were those of persons of 65 years and over that age.

62 deaths, 21.5 per cent. of the total, were between the ages of 45 and 64 years.

10 deaths between the ages of 25 and 44 years; 4 between 15 and 24; 2 between 1 and 4 years; and 8 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age made up the remaining 8.5 per cent. of deaths.

137 (47.5 per cent.) of the total deaths were due to diseases of the Heart and Circulation; 106 from the age of 65 onwards; 26 between 45 and 64 years; 4 between 25 and 44; and 1 in the 15 to 24 age group.

In 51 cases (approximately 17.7 per cent. of the deaths) death was the result of Cancer and other Malignant Growths.

There were 14 cases of Cancer of the Lung (9 males and 5 females), compared with 10 cases in the previous year.

Since 1948 the Returns for Deaths from Cancer and other Growths have been:

<i>Cancer, etc., all forms</i>				<i>Cancer of Lung</i>		
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1948	...	...	52	No record		—
1949	...	...	55	—	—	—
1950	...	...	58	3	2	5
1951	...	...	50	5	—	5
1952	...	...	63	10	1	11
1953	...	...	50	2	—	2
1954	...	...	55	10	—	10
1955	...	...	46	10	1	11
1956	...	...	51	9	5	14

(Cancer of the lung did not appear as a separate entity in the Registrar-General's Returns until 1950)

During the 7 years' period from 1950 to 1956 male deaths from Cancer of the Lung were almost 6 times as many as female deaths from the same cause.

The years 1954, 1955 and 1956 illustrate how substantial is the part of Cancer of the Lung as a cause of Cancer Mortality.

There is an indication in the Returns that there is a relative increase of Cancer of the Lung in its contribution to total Cancer Mortality.

Respiratory Diseases (Pneumonia, Broncho-pneumonia, Bronchitis) accounted for 48 deaths, approximately 17 per cent. of the total. 42 of the deaths were among old people, 1 death was from Influenza, and 1 from Whooping Cough in an infant who had not received the Protective Vaccine.

1 death was due to the effects of Syphilitic infection.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis, and no Maternal Mortality.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

8 infants under 1 year of age, 6 of them less than 4 weeks old, died from:—

Atelectasis	...	...	...	2
Bronchopneumonia	...	...	...	1
Congenital Abnormalities	...	...	...	2
Prematurity	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1

6 of these deaths would be considered unavoidable. The Whooping Cough death might have been prevented if the infant had received Whooping Cough Vaccine before infection.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH

ACCORDING TO DISEASES

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis: Respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis: Other Forms	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	—	1
6.	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm: Lung & Bronchus	...	...	...	9	5	14
11.	Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	...	...	...	3	3	6
12.	Malignant Neoplasm: Breast	...	...	...	—	5	5
13.	Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	...	...	...	—	2	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	9	15	24
15.	Leukaemia: Aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	3	5
17.	Vascular Lesions, Nervous System	...	...	...	16	24	30
18.	Coronary Disease. Angina	...	...	...	21	13	34
19.	Hypertension with Heart Diseases	...	...	...	5	4	9
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	13	22	35
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	11	7	18
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	10	13	23
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	6	10
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	3	—	3
27.	Gastritis: Enteritis: Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	2	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	6	1	7
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	4	—	4
30.	Pregnancy: Childbirth: Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	—	4	4
32.	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	13	11	24
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	3	—	3
34.	All Other Accidents	...	...	...	4	5	9
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	4	—	4
36.	Homicide	...	...	...	—	—	—

TABLE A
Cases of Infectious Diseases Classified in Age Groups and Localities.

Disease	AGE GROUPS								WARDS							
	Total All Under				Over				Gay-wood		Central		St. Margaret's		South West	
	Ages	1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65								
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	7	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	89	9	37	43	—	—	—	—	32	17	7	5	14	14	—	—
Pneumonia	25	2	1	4	—	3	2	13	8	4	3	2	3	5	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	23	—	3	15	2	2	—	1	7	1	—	1	11	3	—	—
Erysipelas	7	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Dysentery	46	4	17	17	3	5	—	—	6	1	1	1	2	35	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	19	—	—	1	5	9	3	1	7	1	2	1	2	6	—	—
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulm.)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	220	15	63	85	10	21	11	15	69	24	13	10	36	68		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

220 cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) were reported during the year.

Whooping Cough and Dysentery were responsible for more than half the notifications.

There were very few cases of Measles: only 7 being reported.

Whooping Cough was represented up till the end of the year by 89 cases. The outbreak started in April, and most of the cases occurred in September, October and November.

A "follow-up" of 38 cases was made to enquire about the effects of Whooping Cough Vaccine protection. Only 1 of the children had had a course of Whooping Cough Vaccine, and had had a very mild attack. 12 of the non-vaccinated children had marked attacks of the disease, and one of them died.

Sonne Dysentery, a generally mild, but very infectious form of Bacillary Dysentery, was epidemic in May and June. Those affected were mostly school-children, and the outbreak affected North Lynn principally. 6 food-handlers were kept from work under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, until they were considered to be free from infection.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Infective Hepatitis (Catarrhal Jaundice): 23 compared with 16 in the previous year, a carry over of a crop of cases that appeared in November, 1955. 18 of the 23 were children, and cases occurred sporadically in 5 of the schools. Multiple cases appeared in 4 households. The jaundice that led to notification probably represented only a portion of those who were infected. The disease is caused by a virus, and this is excreted in the stools of an infected person. Bowel to mouth infections like this (and Dysentery, Food Poisoning, Paratyphoid, and Poliomyelitis) would be much less, if close attention to handwashing after the toilet was instilled into every child, as part and parcel of his way of living.

Virus A type Influenza was prominent from the end of January to March, causing a good deal of disability and absence from work.

19 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 11 males, 8 females, were registered. 9 of them were associated with previous family infection.

12 cases were detected by the Mass Radiography Unit during its stay in the Town from 19th April until 28th May. The high value of this service is shown by the Unit's discovery of 12 of the 19 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis that were reported during the year; and sundry other conditions of the chest.

The public increasingly appreciate the benefit of the Unit's visits. 6,878 people visited it in 1950, when the Unit first came to the Town. There were 8,334 attendances in 1956.

The report of the Medical Director of the Unit (Dr. O’Riordan) was as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
No. of Miniature X-Ray Examinations	4,717	3,617	8,334
No. of Cases of Pulmonary T.B. found:—			
(a) Active Cases	7	5	12
(b) Cases requiring observations at Chest Clinic	6	0	6
(c) Inactive Post Primary Lesions	0	1	1
(d) Previously Diagnosed Cases ...	8	3	11

Among other diseases discovered were:—

Agenesis	1
Pneumonitis	3
Bronchiectasis	2
Emphysema	1
Pulmonary Fibrosis	7
Bronchial Carcinoma	1
Hilar Adenopathy	1
Pleural Thickening	9
Diaphragm — Hernia (Stomach)	1
— Eventration	1
Foreign Body	1
Cardiovascular Lesions —	
Acquired	6
Congenital	3

Active Cases of Pulmonary T.B.—By Age Groups

	MALES			FEMALES		
	No. Ex- amined	Active Cases	Rate per 1000	Rate per 1000	Active Cases	No. Ex- amined
Under 15	291	—	—	—	—	283
15/19	510	—	—	1.06	1	938
20/24	394	1	2.53	2.04	1	490
25/34	1154	4	3.46	4.44	3	675
35/44	1028	1	0.97	—	—	551
45/54	848	—	—	—	—	438
55/59	225	—	—	—	—	135
60/64	175	1	5.71	—	—	69
65 and over ..	92	—	—	—	—	38
	4717	7	1.48	1.38	5	3617

Rate per 1,000 of active cases of total X-rayed (8,334) = 1.43.

3,262 (1,665/1,597) were X-rayed for the first time revealing 5 (2/3) active cases or 1.53 per 1,000.

5,072 (3,052/2,020) were resurveyed resulting in 7 (5/2) active cases or 1.38 per 1,000.

Of the 7 active male cases, 4 had positive sputa, and of the 5 female active cases 2 had positive sputa.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination

		Primary	Re-Vaccination	Total
Under 5 years	... ..	137	1	138
5-14 years	... ..	9	7	16
15 years and over	... ..	38	30	68
		<hr/> 184	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 222

The total Vaccinations exceeded those of 1955 by 67. The number of children under 5 who were Vaccinated showed a welcome increase; 55 more than in the previous year.

The Primary Vaccinations were the highest since Vaccination ceased to be compulsory.

Immunisation

(a) against Diphtheria

		Primary	Re-Vaccination	Total
Under 5 years	... ..	273	26	299
Over 5 years	... ..	54	196	250
		<hr/> 327	<hr/> 222	<hr/> 549

Again the response was gratifying compared with that of the previous year. There were 125 more Primary Immunisations, and 127 more Reinforcing Inoculations than in 1955.

(b) against Poliomyelitis

A small amount of Vaccine became available for the Immunisation of Poliomyelitis of children born in selected months of 1947 to 1954.

143 children were immunised without any subsequent reports of ill-health as a consequence of the use of this new Vaccine.

B.C.G. Vaccination—against—Tuberculosis

197 pupils out of 320 who were specially tested, were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

HOUSING

I am obliged to Miss M. L. Keith, Housing Manager, for the following report:—

At the 31st December, 1956, the Corporation owned the following properties erected under various Housing Acts:—

<i>Pre-War</i>	<i>Post-War</i>
104 One bedroom flats	46 One bedroom flats
28 Two bedroom flats	50 One bedroom bungalows
828 Three bedroom houses	28 Two bedroom flats
62 Four bedroom houses	59 Two bedroom bungalows
22 Five bedroom houses	394 Two bedroom houses
	512 Three bedroom houses
	10 Four bedroom houses
	116 Permanent Prefabs
	50 Temporary Prefabs
	60 Duplex Flats
1,044	1,325

In addition another 39 families dwell in non-subsidy houses which have been purchased by the Council from time to time.

113 garages are owned by the Corporation, all let to tenants on the various estates, at weekly rents. There are also 5 shops, four of the lessees living in Council property.

Between 1st January and 31st December, 211 families and single persons have been rehoused, this figure including those who have transferred directly from another local authority area with a tenant here; those who have been dispossessed by reason of County Magistrates Court Orders; those coming from individual "Unfit" houses; and those from the Clearance Area in Highgate; as well as several families who were housed on account of serious illness; and finally the "homeless" or "overcrowding" families registered on the general list. This year has seen the last of general rehousing of this sort, as, from the early spring of 1957, all new buildings will be earmarked for families from slum clearance areas, or uninhabitable houses, and the only dwellings available for the general list applicant will be re-lettings. This is bound to create certain hardships as there remain 395 families on the priority general list, of whom 102 are young couples who have never had a house of their own, and 100 families who are living in overcrowded conditions.

The development of the North Lynn estate continues, and provides houses for 800 families, with another 500 dwellings still to be erected. As each completed street gets further away from

the central shopping area of the town it is hoped that the four shops whose building was cancelled at the beginning of the 'credit squeeze' will start erection soon, as the demand for them is urgent. So, too, is a building that can be used as a meeting place for tenants, adults and children, and particularly adolescents, whose need was recognised by the Borough Council when the latter part of the estate was planned. It was hoped that the County Council would develop a Community Centre here, but plans for this have been scrapped.

The small area planned for old people in Southgate Street and known as Horsley's Court, with four flats and seven bungalows, has been a joy to look after. The pleasure of the tenants in their new quarters is very apparent, a small central area such as this one being ideal for this form of development.

A rent variation scheme was introduced on 1st October, allowing rebates to all families living in houses built under the Housing Acts if their incomes are below a prescribed scale.

Care was taken to keep the scheme as simple as possible, in order that it should be easily understood, and also that the administration should be as easy as possible.

The overall picture on the housing estates continues to be good, the majority of tenants paying their rents promptly, respecting the property in which they dwell, and keeping a high standard of garden cultivation. Unfortunately, the effect felt from the few who are bad tenants is very considerable, not only upon the Corporation, as landlord, who is called upon to carry out more repairs in such houses, and whose staff have to spend an unfair proportion of their time making calls for rents, or writing letters about complaints, but also upon their neighbours, and the estate community generally, who have to put up with bad behaviour, undisciplined children, and general lack of consideration. Efforts continue to try to bring about changes for the better in the way of life of this minority.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Atmospheric Pollution.

Complaints, mostly about "fumes," occasionally about "dust" as well, continued to come from people living in the neighbourhood of the Fertiliser Works at South Lynn.

Complaints were less than 1955: none being received at the Health Department between the beginning of August and the end of the year. In the corresponding period of the previous year there had been 7 complaints: 6 about "fumes," and 1 about "dust."

This apparent change for the better might have been connected with:—

(a) The installation in July of the special equipment mentioned in last year's Report.

- (b) The raising of the height of the "Granulation Plant" chimney.
- (c) The production of Sulphur from the burning of Pyrites being stopped.

Dust Deposit Gauges and Lead Peroxide Cylinders were used in the vicinity of the Fertiliser Works from December, 1955, one of each kind of instrument being placed at points on Atbara Terrace, and Saddlebow Road, North and South of the Works, in the line of the prevailing winds. Similar instruments were set up as "Controls," at the Corporation Depot, about a mile North-East of the Fertiliser Works.

The main purpose of the Deposit Gauges was to collect samples sufficient for Analyses, to determine the composition of the dust that was deposited in the neighbourhood of the Fertiliser Works.

The Public Analyst (Dr. S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.) gave the following report on his examination of the deposit that had collected in the Deposit Gauge at Saddlebow Road during the month of April.

REPORT

on the

Examination of a specimen of deposit taken from the Deposit Gauge, 169, Saddlebow Road, King's Lynn: collected during the month of April, 1956.

Weight of deposit = 1.198 grammes (40.49 tons per square mile).

This deposit was examined quantitatively, and the following results were obtained:—

Silica (sandy matter)	...	...	26.3 per cent.
Calcium Phosphate	...	...	40.6 per cent.
Calcium Sulphate	...	...	9.0 per cent.
Iron (as Fe ₂ O ₃)	...	...	5.9 per cent.
Organic matter	...	...	15.7 per cent.

(Signed) S. GREENBURGH,
Public Analyst.

24th May, 1956.

Similar ingredients, with the addition of Ammonium Sulphate, were discovered by the Public Analyst in a sample of dust collected in March by a resident of the district.

For the April sample the Analyst gave this opinion:—

"I would say that in view of the Calcium Phosphate content of the deposit collected in the Deposit Gauge at 169, Saddlebow Road, during the month of April, 1956, the matter contained in this deposit had been derived mainly from a Works producing

Phosphate Artificial Fertiliser. The presence of a comparatively large amount of sandy matter supports this opinion."

For the March specimen the Analyst was "of the opinion" that this specimen of dust deposit has been derived from a Works producing Artificial Fertiliser."

With the complaints about "dust" powdering gardens, windows, rooms, washing, etc., there were expressions of concern that the dust might be harmful to the person through inhalation.

The Analyst's results were sent for specialised Medical opinion, through the *British Medical Journal*.

The following reply was received:—

"The only component which could cause a real risk of ill-health is free Silica, provided the airborne concentration is high enough. However, I know of no instance where Silicosis has been contracted in this way. Ammonium Sulphate could possibly irritate the eyes, throat and upper respiratory passages, if the amounts were large enough. The other ingredients, even in fairly large quantities are not likely to cause much, if any, damage to health."

This opinion was substantially in agreement with that expressed by the Council in its Public Statement through the Press in September, 1955.

The Lead Peroxide instruments provide comparative data of the amount of Sulphur Dioxide in the air. A small cylinder, or "candle" coated with Lead Peroxide is exposed to the air for a month, and then analysed for Sulphates; the Sulphur Dioxide taken from the air being oxidised by the Lead Peroxide to Sulphate. The results are expressed in empirical units, viz. milligrams, of Sulphur Trioxide per day, per 100 square centimetres of standard Lead Peroxide exposed in the standard apparatus. The "candles" are enclosed in louvred boxes, and so protected against direct weather effects (rainfall) that they can be used to make comparisons of Sulphur Dioxide concentrations at different times and places.

The candles from each site were sent for examination each month to the Public Analyst (Dr. S. Greenburgh, Cambridge). His monthly reports of the reasurements in milligrams of SO₃ per day per 100 square centimetres of Lead Peroxide were:—

MONTH	SADDLEBOW ROAD	ATBARA TERRACE	CORPORATION DEPOT
January	2.593	1.885	1.758
February	3.099	4.460	1.563
March	5.025	0.856	0.945
April	2.651	0.878	0.824
May	1.197	0.830	0.514
June	0.508	1.262	0.475
July	0.436	0.455	0.450
August	2.448	0.738	0.459

September	3.425	0.922	0.486
October	1.655	1.347	1.092
November	2.742	1.466	1.325
December	1.450	1.460	1.090
Monthly average	2.27	1.38	0.91

Sulphur Dioxide is a product of the combustion of coal, coke, fuel oil, etc., and its production, as the table shows, is less during the middle quarters of the year than in the period January to March. In the "Winter months" more fuel is burnt, and it seems that there is more production at the Fertiliser Works than in the "Summer months."

The following table shows the difference between these six-monthly periods, and the ratio between the results:—

Site of Instrument	Sulphur Dioxide. Rate of absorption expressed as milligrams SO ₂ per 100 square centimetres of Lead Peroxide per day			Ratio Winter Summer
	Summer	Winter	Year	
Saddlebow Road	1.77	2.76	2.36	1.5
Atbara Terrace	0.84	1.91	1.37	2.3
Corporation Depot — Wood Street	0.526	1.29	0.91	2.4

The results for the first and second stations are comparable with those recorded throughout the country, for many mixed industrial and residential areas.

The Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. B. Jones, kept daily records of rainfall, wind direction and wind force. The data will be of value in assessing the effect of varying weather conditions on the atmosphere of the locality.

H.M. Inspector of Alkali, etc., Works, made many visits to the Fertiliser Works during the year.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

This Act did not shift any of the responsibility for the control of operations of premises (like Chemical Works) that have to be registered under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation Act, 1906, from the special Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, to the Local Authorities. Indeed, the provisions of the Alkali Act are extended to apply to smoke, dust and grit from premises controlled under the Act, as they already do to noxious and offensive gases.

From 31st December, 1956, virtually all forms of air pollution from premises registered under the Alkali Act became subject to control under that Act by the Alkali Inspectorate.

2. Diseases of Animals

Swine Anthrax was prominent in February and March over a wide area. 5 cases were notified locally, and the usual precautions were taken under the Anthrax Order, 1938.

The outbreak was reported to have arisen from contaminated imported foodstuff.

3. Water Supplies.

(a) In June and July the results of Bacteriological examinations of the water at Gayton Waterworks indicated occasional organic contamination of the supply before it was chlorinated. Water taken from a tap on the Rising Main was classified as "Unsatisfactory" on 8, and "Suspicious" on 4 occasions. A sample direct from one of the Wells was reported to be "Suspicious."

All the samples of water after chlorination were considered "Highly Satisfactory."

After a thorough investigation it seemed evident that the results had been most likely due to errors in sampling technique.

There was the presence, however, of a disquieting feature in the neighbourhood, the "Sewage Disposal Arrangements of the County Home, Eastgate House." The "Septic Tank" and its "filter" seemed to be of low efficiency, while the effluent was being disposed of along a roadside drain, 2,300ft. North-East of the Waterworks and in the "upstream" direction.

Eventually this matter was referred to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. An Engineer Inspector of the Ministry, with a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, inspected Eastgate House Sewage Disposal Arrangements on the 30th October. The Ministry's Report had not been received by the end of the year.

(b) *Fluorine Content.* It is an established fact that children in areas where the fluorine content of the drinking water supplies is low are much more effected by dental decay than children of places where the natural fluorine of the water is relatively high.

The Borough Engineer had the local water supplies analysed for their fluorine content. That of Gayton was 0.135 parts per million; Hillington water was less than 0.1 parts per million.

These are low figures, and local Dental Surgeons state that there is a high rate of dental decay among the children of this area.

The results of dental surveys carried out over long periods in this and other countries, of the value of adequate fluorine in

water supplies (naturally in, or added to them) have been impressive enough to lead to the establishment of Ministry of Health sponsored "fluoridation schemes" at Andover, Anglsey, Kilmar-nock and Watford. Fluoride is being added to the water supplies in these places, to bring the fluorine content of their water supplies to approximately 1 part per million.

A general adoption of fluoridation when the natural fluorine of water is low would, it seems, prevent a great deal of dental decay and spare children much of the suffering and indifferent health that accompanies dental caries.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information concerning the Town's Water Supply, Sewerage, and Disposal of Refuse Services:—

Water.

1. The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity during the year.

Fifty-one samples of treated water have been taken from consumers' taps during the year, also regular samples of raw water from the Corporation's Wells and Boreholes at Gayton and Hillington have been taken, and a total of one hundred and ninety-nine samples have been submitted for analyses. Of these samples, nine gave positive bacteriological results, which after investigation proved to be due to faulty sampling technique.

The unsatisfactory drainage arrangements at the County Council's Home at Eastgate House, Gayton, to which attention was drawn in last year's report, have not yet received attention, although it was the subject of an informal inquiry by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in October last.

2. The waste detection service has continued during the year with satisfactory results. Deacon meters have now been installed in the newer parts of the Borough, and the whole of the distribution system is now covered, and waste detection is facilitated.

The total consumption of water for 1956 showed an over-all increase of 6.18 per cent., but for purely domestic purposes the consumption showed a decrease of 6.39 per cent. compared with the previous year.

3. The new water development scheme was completed during 1956, and was gradually brought into operation commencing in July. The scheme was formally inaugurated at a Public Ceremony in September by J. Enoch Powell, Esq., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The

extension of the new Development Scheme to the West Lynn Area was completed in June.

4. No economy appeals were necessary during the year.

5. New distribution mains have been laid to supply new housing development at Henry Bell Close, and Sir Lewis Street extension, and also to supply existing development on Hardwick Road. This latter was made possible by the completion of the new water development scheme, and enabled a supply to be given for the first time to some half-dozen properties.

6. During the year the construction of a small Sewage Disposal Works was completed for the three cottages at Gayton Pumping Station, rendering the existing Cesspool installation obsolete. There is now no reason to fear any pollution to supplies from this source.

Sewerage.

1. The new Works and Pumping Station installed to alleviate the flooding in Wellesley Street/Portland Street district was the scene of an explosion in April, as a result of which the whole installation was completely wrecked. The cause of the explosion was traced to a leakage of coal gas into the premises and being ignited by an electrical spark. Apart from the wrecking of the Pumping Station and Plant there was considerable damage caused to adjacent properties, but fortunately there were no personal injuries.

During the year work has proceeded towards the reinstatement of the Pumping Station and plant, which should be in commission early in 1957.

2. The position of the Southgate Street sewer outfall remains as reported in the previous year. A new flushing penstock has been installed at the outfall, which facilitates the clearing of this particular sewer.

3. During the course of the year a limited extension of the soil sewer to serve existing and projected development on Gayton Road has been completed. This has enabled those properties using cesspool or septic tank drainage to be connected to the sewerage system.

4. Due to the restriction on capital expenditure it has not been possible to proceed with the programme of Private Street Works, which was designed to provide sewers where none existed, and for the construction of proper road and footpath surfaces.

Public Cleansing.

There is no material change to record in this section of the Corporation's work.

During the year propaganda had continued regarding the keeping of the town free from litter, and additional litter baskets had been provided.

Refuse Disposal.

1. Tipping has continued during the year at Hardings Pits off Wisbech Road, and there have been no complaints of nuisance during the year.

2. During the year the Department was equipped with three new Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Refuse Collecting Vehicles, replacing four existing vehicles which had become obsolete. Advantage was taken to re-organise the existing four refuse collection runs into three, and although there has been little economy in labour, vehicle operating costs show an appreciable reduction.

Swimming bath

Fourteen samples of Swimming Bath Water were taken from the Corporation Swimming Bath and submitted to the Public Analyst.

The results of eleven samples indicated that the water was fit for bathing purposes, although the results of two of these samples indicated that the bath should be emptied and re-filled.

The results of three samples indicated that the rate of chlorination be increased.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the work done during the year under the various Public Health and Housing Acts, viz.:—

773 Special Complaints and Visits were made.

59 Informal Notices and Intimations served.

8 Statutory Notices served.

Details:—

Roofs repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	10
W.C. roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	4
Sash cords renewed ...	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired, renewed or made to open ...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous defects ...	...	...	...	20
Floorboards repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	4
Stoves repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	3
Ceiling plaster renewed ...	...	...	...	8
Wall plaster repaired ...	...	...	...	7
Drains relaid or repaired ...	...	...	...	6
W.C. seats repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	1
W.C. pans renewed ...	...	...	...	1

Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed	...	3
Dampness to walls	... ..	5
Drains cleared	... ..	45
Flues repaired	... ..	1
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	... ..	2
Stair-treads and riser repaired	... ..	2
Eaves gutters provided and fixed	... ..	6
Walls repaired	... ..	7
Inspection chambers provided	... ..	4
Chimneys repaired	... ..	2
New sinks provided	... ..	1

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	... ..	733
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	850
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and re-inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	150
(b) The number of inspections made for the purpose	...	236
(c) (1) The number of houses that on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	...	51
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	45
(3) The number of Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to:—		
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works; or	... ..	1
(b) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders	... ..	51
(4) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	... ..	5
(5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices, by owners	...	5
(6) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices, by Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	Nil
(7) The numbers of Demolition or Closing Orders made	... ..	45
(8) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Sub-Section 3, Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	... ..	6
(9) Number of houses demolished	... ..	Nil

3. Proceedings by Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	7
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in the area, which have been revisited periodically.

Re-Housing

41 premises used for human habitation were visited to ascertain more complete information for the assessment of need for housing applicants.

Meetings with Owners and Tradesmen.

183 meetings were held with Owners and Tradesmen with regard to requirements concerning defective houses, drains, etc.

House Drains.

During the year 144 drains were tested and examined, and appropriate action taken.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

59 inspections to Tents, Vans and Sheds were made in respect of licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

24 rooms were disinfected for vermin. In all cases advice was given, and the Council's offer to assist with disinfection was accepted.

In addition, 372 rooms of Council houses were treated following vacation of the premises.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Two Rodent Operatives were employed throughout the year and sewer treatment was carried out by them during June and December.

Arrangements have been made with several of the business premises which store quantities of food, for them to be under the constant supervision of the Corporation's Rodent Operatives, and for all treatment to be carried out by them. This arrangement has been found eminently satisfactory from the point of view of both the occupier and the Corporation.

Offensive Trades.

The number of Offensive Trades on the register at the end of the year was as follows:—

Gut Scrapers	...	...	...	2
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	2
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	1

47 visits were made to the above premises.

Disinfection.

Aerial disinfection was carried out to 379 rooms and 4 Nursing Home Wards.

48 miscellaneous articles and 21,751 sacks were disinfected at the Steam Disinfector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

The following licences were granted by the Local Authority:—

- 3 Licences for Pasteurising Establishments.
- 29 Dealers' Licences to use the Designation of Tuberculin Tested.
- 14 Dealers' Licences to use the Designation of Sterilised.
- 26 Dealers' Licences to use the Designation of Pasteurised.

Two samples of milk were taken monthly from the three Pasteurising Establishments.

All samples satisfied the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Markets.

202 visits were made to Markets during the year.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	1883	97	107	2303	6567	Nil
Number Inspected	1883	97	107	2303	6567	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole Carcases Condemned	4	3	2	9	59	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	280	13	3	11	134	Nil
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with diseases other than Tuberculo- sis & Cysticerci	15.06	16.49	4.67	.87	2.93	Nil
Tuberculosis only: Whole Carcases Condemned	1	2	2	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	124	9	1	—	85	—
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis	6.63	11.34	2.803	—	1.324	—
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part of organ was con- demned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submit- ted to treatment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

Other Foods.

4	jars Pickle	1	tin Jellied Veal
129	tins Pears	19	tins Tomato Puree
432	tins Mixed Vegetables	8	tins Tongue
29	tins Ham	47	tins Macedoines
7,717	tins Peas	30	lbs. Prunes
263	tins Tomatoes	52	tins Celery Hearts
121	tins Oranges	163	tins Luncheon Meat
146	tins Soup	345	tins Fruit Salad
177	tins Pineapple	2	tins Blackberries & Apples
61	tins Grapefruit	881	tins Plums
865	tins Milk	851½	lbs. Pork
57	tins Herrings	3½	lbs. Luncheon Meat
21	tins Steak & Kidney	28	tins Pilchards
168	tins Cherries	3	tins Roes
373	tins Raspberries	3	tins Syrup
424	tins Beans	28	tins Sausages
2	tins Tuna Fish	10	jars Tongue Spread
7¾	lbs. Jellied Veal	15	boxes Hamburgers
54	lbs. Fish	25	boxes Ham Patties
143¼	lbs. Ham	3	tins Chicken
979	lbs. Beef	37	tins Crab
38	lbs. Mutton	72	Steak Pies
145¼	lbs. Cheese	214	tins Apricot Pulp
1,032¾	lbs. Sausages	1,769	tins Strawberries
8¾	lbs. Butter	214	tins Apricots
102	tins Carrots	15	tins Grapes
937	tins Peaches	1,290	tins Rhubarb
58	tins Minced Beef Loaf	7	cartons Suet
227	tins Stewed Steak	56	lbs. Currants
1	tin Loganberries	16	jars Jelly
162	tins Corned Beef	48	lbs. Sultanas
11	tins Pork	396	tins Peach Pulp
3	tins Mackerel	116	tins Gooseberries
21	tins Rice	23	jars Salad Cream
5	tins Spaghetti	9	tins Apples
1	jar Honey	92	tins Beetroot

Wherever practicable salvageable food was returned, through the trade channels, for re-processing. All other condemned food was collected and destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Clean Food Campaign.

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are:—

- 49 Premises for the Sale of Preserved and Potted Meat, etc.
- 24 Fish Shops.
- 94 Premises for the Storage and Sale of Ice Cream.
- 50 Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—1954.
- 89 Inspections were carried out on premises for the sale of Preserved and Potted Meat, etc.
- 48 Visits were made to Fish Shops.
- 41 Visits were made to premises Licensed for the Storage and Sale of Ice Cream.
- 80 Visits were made to Dairies and Milk Shops.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

71 Visits were made to premises under these Regulations.

A summary of the main provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955—56, was made and distributed to all Food Preparing Premises and Food Handlers.

Educational Activity.

A talk on the Food Hygiene Regulations was given to the King's Lynn and District Master Bakers' Association in October.

A talk on the Food Hygiene Regulations was also given to the members of the Men's Fellowship of St. Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn, in November.

FACTORIES

Premises	Number on Register	Number of			Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices		
Factories with Mechanical Power	153	91	1		Nil
Factories without Mechanical Power	30	6	Nil		Nil
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	3	Nil		Nil
Total	186	100	1		Nil
DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES					
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—		1
Overcrowding	—	—	—		—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—		—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—		—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—		—
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—		1
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	—	—	—		—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	2	2	—		2
Other Offences	1	1	—		1
Total	5	5	—		5

KING'S LYNN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
PORT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PORT OF KING'S LYNN

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of King's Lynn.

Mr. Mayor, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report of the Port Health Service for the year 1956.

The ships that called at the Port were free from notifiable Infectious Diseases.

A death from "Natural Causes" took place on board the m.v. *Patrick M*, whilst the ship was in the Roads, in August.

10 nuisances were detected during 489 routine inspections, and these were dealt with without need for Statutory proceedings.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. HAMILTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PORT OF KING'S LYNN

Section I. STAFF.

Name of Official	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
J. HAMILTON	Medical Officer of Health.	18.2.49	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (D.T.M., D.T.H.).	Medical Officer of Health, Borough of King's Lynn. Medical Officer of Health, Freebridge Lynn R.D.C. Assistant County Medical Officer, Norfolk County Council. Senior Public Health Inspector for the Borough of King's Lynn.
H. G. COBBOLD	Senior Public Health Inspector.	11.5.36	M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Meat Other Foods	
N. B. JONES	Public Health Inspector.	1.9.51	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Meat and Other Foods. Cert. Food Hygiene. Cert. Master Mariner.	Public Health Inspector for the Borough of King's Lynn.

Address and Telephone Number of the Medical Officer of Health:—

Offices: Town Hall, King's Lynn. *Telephone:* King's Lynn 2129.
15, Nelson Street, King's Lynn. *Telephone:* King's Lynn 3643.
House: "Elmina," Ashwicken, King's Lynn. *Telephone:* Ashwicken 206,

Section II. Amount of Shipping Entering the District during the Year. TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage Infectious Disease on Board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign	337	95121	8	327	Nil
Coastwise	528	147307	8	162	Nil
Total	865	242428	16	489	Nil

Section III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the Year TABLE C.

Passenger Traffic	{ Number of Passengers		INWARDS:	British 13	Alien 40	Total 53.
	{ Number of Passengers		OUTWARDS:	British 13	Alien 17	Total 30.
Cargo Traffic.	{ Principal IMPORTS:		Petroleum, Fertiliser, Timber, Grain, Compounds and General.			
	{ Principle EXPORTS:		Grain, Pig Iron and General.			
Principal Ports from which the Ships arrive:— Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, Wismar, Casablanca, Bremen, Leningrad, Archangel, Breda, Hamina, Mantyluoto, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Ghent, Oskarshamn, Gdansk, Hansweert, Huelva.						

Section IV. Inland Barge Traffic

Nil.

Section V. Water Supply.

No change.

Section VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

- (1) *List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6).*

As soon as the World Health Organisation's Weekly Epidemiological Record is received an abstract is made by the Port Medical Officer of any information likely to affect the Port; this is then sent, in form, to the Offices of the Harbourmaster and Officer-in-Charge H.M. Waterguard for the information of these Officials and Pilots. This is a routine weekly procedure.

- (2) (3) (4) (5) No change.

Section VII. Smallpox.

- (1) *Hospital:* ...

By the arrangements of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board, the Smallpox Hospital for the area is:—
St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich.

- (2) *Transport:*—

The Ambulance Transport is provided by the Ipswich Ambulance Service.

- (3) *Smallpox Consultants:*—

(a) Dr. W. M. Oliver, M.B.E., Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

(b) Dr. A. G. Smith, 24, Unthank Road, Norwich.

(c) Dr. R. A. Leader, Elm Street, Ipswich.

- (4) *Facilities of Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox:*

Specimens would be sent to Dr. F. O. MacCallum, Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, The Hyde, London, N.W.9. Notification of dispatch would be given by telephone (Colindale 7041).

Section VIII. Venereal Disease.

Venereal Diseases Clinics are held as follows at the West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital:—

- (a) Male. 7 p.m. Tuesday and Friday.
- (b) Females and Children. 3 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday.

Leaflets giving these details, and the situation of the Hospital, are delivered to the Master of every vessel arriving at the Quay-side and Docks. Posters showing the information are exhibited in the Docks, e.g. in the Dockside conveniences.

In-patient facilities can be provided at the King's Lynn Isolation Hospital, and the Laboratory at the General Hospital undertakes the examinations of specimens (Blood, etc.).

Section IX. Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships.

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year.		Number of Ships concerned
		Passen- gers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign Ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign Ports but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from Other Ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Section X. Observations on the Occurrence of Malaria in Ships.

No cases were reported.

Section XI. Measures taken against Ships Infected with or Suspected for Plague.

No action.

Section XII. Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports.

With the co-operation of the Port Authorities, arrangements have been made for:—

(a) All ropes, warps, etc., used for mooring the ship to be fitted with canvas rat-guards, 2ft. long, to be daily coated with tar, or fitted with shields, or discs. All rat-guards are fitted clear of the ships and quay, and are adjusted with the rise and fall of the tide.

(b) No gangways, chutes or planks, etc., connecting the ship to the shore, except those in actual use, are permitted. Those in use are withdrawn as soon as possible at night.

These measures are carried out as a practice on all vessels from African Ports, and grain-carrying ships, when conditions in the latter case allow it.

1. Procedure for Inspection of Ships for Rats.

Regular inspection of ships are carried out by the Port Health Inspectors and Rodent Operatives.

2. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rodents.

Post mortem examination and examinations of stained films can be done at the Port Health Office. The Norwich Public Health Laboratory Service is also available for Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations.

No rats were examined during the year.

3. Arrangements in the District for De-Ratting Ships, the Methods used, etc.

The Port is not a "Designated Approved Port."

4. Progress in the Rat-Proofing of Ships.

Generally satisfactory.

TABLE E

Rodents Destroyed during the Year in Ships from Foreign Ports.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>
Black Rats	Nil
Brown Rats	Nil
Species Not Known	Nil
Sent for Examination	Nil
Infected with Plague	Nil

Two Rodent Operators are employed jointly by the King's Lynn Borough and Port Health Authority. In addition to the inspections made by the Port Medical Officer and the Port Public Health Inspectors, the Ships in the Port, Quay, Wharves and Warehouses in the vicinity of the Docks are inspected by the Rodent Operators systematically.

In general, the wharves and warehouses, of modern construction, are rat-proof.

It was not necessary for any rat destruction to be carried out on vessels arriving at the Docks.

Approximately 110 brown rats and no black rats were destroyed from the Docks, Quay, Wharves and Warehouses during the year.

TABLE F.
De-Ratting Certificates and De-Ratting Exemption Certificates issued during the Year for
Ships from Foreign Ports

	After Fumigation with Other Fumigant (state method)	After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total	Number of De-Ratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
HGN						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Act, 1951.

Number of applications received for granting Rodent Control Certificates — Nil.
Number of Vessels inspected for the purpose of granting Rodent Control Certificates — Nil.
Number of Rodent Control Certificates granted in accordance with Article 3 (2) (b) of the Order — Nil
Number of Inspections of Dock premises — 404.

Section XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

Table G.

Nature and Number of Inspections	Inspections and Notices		Result of Serving Notices
	Notices Served		
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspection	Nil	10	Nuisances abated
Total	Nil	10	

Section XIV. Public Health Shellfish Regulations, 1934 - 1949.

Particular attention has been paid in the last few years to the quality of the Mussels on Nun Buoy Scalp. The majority of samples taken from it had been "Satisfactory" judged by the ratings of the provisional standards of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Satisfactory: 0—5 Faecal Coli per ml. of Shellfish flesh.

Suspicious: 5—14 Faecal Coli per ml. of Shelfish flesh.

Unsatisfactory: 15 and over Faecal Coli per ml. of Shellfish flesh.

8 samples of Mussels were taken from the Nun Buoy Scalp. The results from Norwich Public Health Laboratory were:—

4th May, 1956.

(a) Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
Less than one (Satisfactory).

(b) Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
Nil (Satisfactory).

12th October, 1957.

Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
Less than 5 (Satisfactory).

13th November, 1957.

Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
Less than 1 (Satisfactory).

11th December, 1957.

(a) Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
3 (Satisfactory).

(b) Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
2 (Satisfactory).

12th December, 1957

(a) Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
30 (Unsatisfactory).

(b) Probable number of faecal coli per ml. of mussel flesh —
7 (Suspicious).

When considered with the results of previous years, those of 12th December led to the conclusion that the Nun Buoy Scalp did not consistently supply mussels of a quality that could be relied upon as always fit for human consumption, and a recommendation that a ban be put on its use for this purpose would be justified.

However, the matter was, in a way, settling itself, for the mussels on the Scalp had become so few, and of such a poor quality, that the use of it as a source of mussels for the Market was being discontinued.

Section XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens (applicable only to Ports approved for the landing of Aliens)

The Port is not a Port that is approved for the landing of Aliens.

Section XVI. Miscellaneous.

Burial Arrangements.

The interment of the dead is carried out by the Local Authority in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948.

In the case of a death on board ship from infectious disease, burial arrangements would be those detailed by the Medical Officer.

Conclusion.

I have to thank the Officers of H.M. Customs, King's Lynn Conservancy Board, British Transport Commission (Docks), Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, the Shipping Companies and the owners of Commercial premises in the Docks, for their willing help and ready co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HAMILTON,

Port Medical Officer of Health,

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KING STREET, KING'S LYNN
NORFOLK